

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 ACDA-05 SP-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 /063 W

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R 201551Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7391

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MASS, XG, NL

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY RESTRAINTS

REF: STATE 4313

1. SUMMARY: WHILE SKEPTICAL OF CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, GON IS STRONG PROPONENT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS. DUTCH THEMSELVES ARE NOT ARMS MERCHANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE DUTCH HAVE TRADITIONALLY NOT WANTED TO MISS A SINGLE COMMERCIAL BET, THEY HAVE NEVER GONE IN FOR ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION AND SALES IN A BIG WAY. DUTCH INDUSTRY HAS THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE A WIDE RANGE OF DEFENSE-RELATED ITEMS, BUT ACTUAL PRODUCTION IS MINOR AND IS CONCENTRATED ON RELATIVELY NON-CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS IN COMPARISON WITH NEIGHBORING EUROPEAN

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COUNTRIES. ATTENTION-GETTING ARMS SUCH AS FIGHTER AIRCRAFT,

BOMBERS, HELICOPTERS, ROCKETS, HOWITZERS, MACHINE-GUNS, RIFLES, ETC., ARE NOT PRODUCED IN HOLLAND. (COPRODUCTION OF F-16 BY HOLLAND WILL TO SOME EXTENT ALTER SITUATION.) DUTCH INDUSTRY DOES, HOWEVER, TURN OUT SOME MUNITIONS.

3. THE FOLLOWING LISTING IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE, BUT IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF DUTCH "ARMS" INDUSTRIES:

VFW-FOKKER BUILDS F-27 AIRCRAFT WHICH CAN BE USED FOR MILITARY CARGO OR TROOP TRANSPORT.

HOLLANDSE SIGNAAL (HSA), A PHILIPS SUBSIDIARY, PRODUCES A WIDE RANGE OF SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS AND RADAR DEVICES (FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS) FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. PHILIPS RADIOS AND TRANSCEIVERS ARE MADE TO MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN SPECIFICATIONS. AN HSA SUBSIDIARY, VAN DER HEEM, MAKES SONAR AND OTHER UNDERWATER MEASURING APPARATUS WITH MILITARY APPLICABILITY.

OUDE DELFT MANUFACTURES SENSING DEVICES AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (INFRA-RED, PHOTO AND ELECTRONIC).

DAF MANUFACTURES WHEELED VEHICLES (TRUCKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS) FOR MILITARY BUYERS.

EURO METAL PRODUCES AMMUNITION (50 CAL. TO 8 INCH).

DUTCH SHIPYARDS HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF BUILDING SURFACE NAVAL VESSELS UP TO CRUISER SIZE.

4. AMRS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT IS A PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY GOAL OF THE GON. THE DUTCH ARE ACTIVE, INTERESTED, AND INFORMED PARTICIPANTS IN VARIOUS DISARMAMENT FORA. CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRADE RESTRAINTS ARE HIGH ON THE DUTCH LIST OF DESIRABLE, ALBIET NOT SO PRIMISING, ARMS CONTROL GOALS. GON DOUBTS AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF MAKING PROGRESS IN REGIONALLY BASED CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS CLEARLY SET OUT BY DUTCH REP (MEERBURG) IN CCD LAST AUGUST. (GENEVA 6696, 8/29/75) COMMENTING ON US CONVENTIONAL ARMS PRESENTATION, MEERBURG NOTED THAT DUTCH TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW IN PRINCIPLE TO IDEA OF INSTITUING CONTROLS, BUT THAT REAOD SO FULL OF PITFALLS THAT "AMERICAN  
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INITIATIVE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE, AT THIS MOMENT, MUCH CHANCE OF SUCCESS."

5. DESPITE THIS SEEMINGLY NEGATIVE, BUT PROBABLY REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION, GON CONTINUES TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO REDUCE WORLD ARMS TRADE. BEST DESCRIPTION OF DUTCH ATTITUDE ON ISSUE WAS GIVEN BY MFA STATE SECRETARY KOOIJMANS IN UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE ON NOV 6 WHEN HE SAID, IN PART: "MY GOVERNMENT WOULD

WELCOME ANY INITIATIVE, EITHER ON A REGIONAL OR A WORLDWIDE SCALE, WHICH COULD ENABLE US TO UNTIE THIS SEEMINGLY GORDIAN KNOT."

6. COMMENT: SHOULD DEPARTMENT STUDY LEAD TO NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS, FOR CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUBJECT, GON COULD BE EXPECTED TO CAREFULLY AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY CONSIDER MATTER. DUTCH ARE NOT FACED, AS ARE SOME OF THEIR EC-9 PARTNERS, WITH DILEMMA OF RECONCILING DEMANDS OF A DOMESTIC ARMS INDUSTRY AGAINST TO THEM OBVIOUS DESIRABILITY OF REDUCING GROWING WORLD ARMS TRADE. F-16 COPRODUCTION WILL ALTER SITUATION SOMEWHAT, BUT DUTCH ARE NOT LIKELY TO BECOME KNOWN AS ARMS PEDDLERS ON BASIS OF THAT ONE PLANCE. THEY MAY BE, HOWEVER, MORE CONCERNED THAN SOME OTHER EUROPEANS WITH POSSIBLE ADVERSE REACTIONS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THAT CONCERN TO BE SUCH AS TO KEEP THE GON FROM PARTICIPATING IN WHATEVER FORUM MAY BE PROPOSED EVENTUALLY FOR INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ADVISABLE TO CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH AND SEEK SUPPORT OF GON ON THIS ISSUE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, ARMS PRODUCTION, ARMS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976THEHA00296  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760022-0270  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 4313  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY RESTRAINTS  
**TAGS:** PARM, PFOR, MASS, XG, NL, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006